

## QUALIFICATION STANDARDS OPERATING MANUAL

### SECTION VII. TECHNICAL NOTES AND UPDATES

This section of the Manual is included to highlight special staffing requirements or provisions, and to offer a central location for filing periodic updates of qualifications information prior to the U.S. Government Printing Office's issuing the printed Manual transmittals. Regular users of the Manual may also want to retain their own notes here for ready reference when questions arise about recurring issues.

#### Special Staffing Situations

**Attorney Positions (GS-905 and GS-1222):** The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is prohibited by law from examining for attorney positions or establishing qualification requirements for them. Therefore, Federal agencies that employ attorneys set their own requirements.

**Air Force and Army Reserve Technician (ART) Positions:** These positions require the appropriate military reserve status. Qualifications criteria for these positions are currently updated in connection with examining delegation agreements. Installations staffing ART positions should consult the appropriate office in their chain of command if they need further information.

**Aerospace Technology Positions with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA):** The legislation that established NASA permitted special staffing incentives for aerospace technology positions in a variety of engineering and scientific fields. Information about the requirements for positions filled through the Aerospace Technology program may be obtained from NASA.

**Department of Defense (DOD) Acquisition Positions:** The Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act requires that Defense civilian acquisition personnel in the Contracting Series, GS-1102, and other acquisition-related positions meet specific educational criteria or the equivalent as determined by DOD. Information about these requirements may be obtained from DOD.

**Maximum Entry Age:** Under title 5 U.S.C. 3307, agencies are authorized to establish a maximum entry age for original appointment to law enforcement officer, firefighter, and U.S. Park Police positions. A maximum entry age has also been established under this statutory provision for original appointment to air traffic controller positions at terminals and centers. Information about maximum entry age limits will be provided to applicants by the employing agencies.

**Panama Canal Employment System:** The legislation that established the Panama Canal Commission authorized that Commission and other Federal agencies with employees in the Republic of Panama to establish qualification standards for positions covered by the Panama Canal Employment System. OPM qualification standards are used for many positions; however, alternate requirements are permissible as determined by the employing agency.

**Department of Veterans Affairs Qualification Standards:** Under title 38 U.S.C. 7402, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has the authority to establish qualification standards for a variety of occupations, primarily those involving health care. The list that follows identifies the occupations/positions for which the Department of Veterans Affairs has approved use of the OPM qualification standards in lieu of establishing separate standards under its authority. In some cases, approval of the OPM standard is for use in conjunction with a VA standard. Those occupations or positions are so noted. The list will be updated periodically as changes occur.

GS-101 Social Science Series

GS-181 Psychology Aid and Technician Series

GS-184 Sociology Series

Approved for Psychology Aid positions only

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GS-186	Social Services Aid and Assistant Series	
GS-189	Recreation Aid and Assistant Series	
GS-301	Miscellaneous Administration and Program Series	Approved for positions other than Rehabilitation Medicine Coordinator
GS-340	Program Management Series	
GS-401	General Biological Science Series	
GS-404	Biological Technician Series	
GS-405	Pharmacology Series	
GS-413	Physiology Series	
GS-415	Toxicology Series	
GS-437	Horticulture Series	
GS-440	Genetics Series	
GS-601	General Health Science Series	Approved for positions other than Nuclear Medicine Technologist
GS-621	Nursing Assistant Series	
GS-622	Medical Supply Aide and Technician Series	
GS-625	Autopsy Assistant Series	
GS-630	Dietitian and Nutritionist Series standard	Approved for use in conjunction with VA
GS-636	Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant Series	
GS-637	Manual Arts Therapist Series	
GS-638	Recreation/Creative Arts Therapist Series	
GS-639	Educational Therapist Series	
GS-640	Health Aid and Technician Series	
GS-642	Nuclear Medicine Technician Series	Approved for use in conjunction with VA standard
GS-644	Medical Technologist Series	
GS-645	Medical Technician Series	
GS-646	Pathology Technician Series	
GS-647	Diagnostic Radiologic Technologist Series	Approved for use in conjunction with VA standard
GS-648	Therapeutic Radiologic Technologist Series	Approved for use in conjunction with VA standard
GS-649	Medical Instrument Technician Series	
GS-651	Respiratory Therapist Series	
GS-661	Pharmacy Technician Series	
GS-664	Restoration Technician Series	
GS-665	Speech Pathology and Audiology Series	
GS-667	Orthotist and Prosthetist Series	
GS-669	Medical Records Administration Series	
GS-670	Health System Administration Series	
GS-671	Health System Specialist Series	
GS-672	Prosthetic Representative Series	Approved for use in conjunction with VA standard
GS-673	Hospital Housekeeping Management Series	
GS-679	Medical Clerk Series	
GS-681	Dental Assistant Series	Approved for use in conjunction with VA standard
GS-682	Dental Hygiene Series	

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GS-683	Dental Laboratory Aid and Technician Series
GS-690	Industrial Hygiene Series
GS-1020	Illustrating Series
GS-1101	General Business and Industry Series
GS-1301	General Physical Science Series
GS-1306	Health Physics Series
GS-1310	Physics Series
GS-1320	Chemistry Series
GS-1411	Library Technician Series
GS-1701	General Education and Training Series
GS-1715	Vocational Rehabilitation Series

OPM's Student Trainee qualification standard has also been approved for use under the Department of Veterans Affairs' title 38 authority.